This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method of recovering factor VIII/von Willebrand factor-complex (factor VIII/vWF-complex) comprising:

(a) providing a ~~factor VIII/vWF-complex containing~~ protein solution comprising a factor VIII/vWF complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers,

~~(b) providing a cation exchanger,~~

~~(c)~~ (b) binding said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers ~~of said protein solution on said~~ to a cation exchanger, and

~~(d)~~ (c) eluting ~~factor VIII/vWF-complex from~~ said cation exchanger by a step-wise elution process to elute and recover said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers.

18. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein

said protein solution contains a contaminating protein, said contaminating protein including a factor VIII/wVF complex containing low-molecular weight vWF multimers, factor VIII free from platelet agglutinating vWF activity, and/or factor VIII:C;

said binding comprising contacting said protein solution with said cation exchanger ~~factor VIII/vWF-complex is bound to said cation exchanger~~ at a salt concentration of ≤250 ~~mM and~~ mM, whereby said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers and at least one of said contaminating proteins become bound to said cation exchanger; and

a step in said step-wise elution process comprises eluting ~~factor VIII/vWF-complex containing low-molecular weight vWF multimers, factor VIII free from platelet~~

~~agglutinating vWF activity, and factor VIII:C is eluted and recovered~~ at least one contaminating protein from said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of between ≥250 mM and ≤300 mM.

19. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers from said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of ≥300 mM.

20. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers from said cation exchanger at a salt concentration of ≥350 mM.

21. (previously amended) A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein said recovered factor VIII/vWF-complex is a factor VIII/vWF complex-containing fraction free from low-molecular vWF multimers, vWF degradation products, non complexed factor VIII, and is substantially free of contaminating nucleic acids.

22. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said elution of said factor VIII/vWF complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers from said cation exchanger is carried out in a buffer system having a pH ranging between 4.5 and 8.5.

23. (original) A method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said pH of said buffer system is ≥7.1 and ≤8.5.

24. (original) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said cation exchanger is sulfopropyl-group conjugated carrier or a carboxymethyl-group conjugated carrier.

25. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said ~~factor VIII/vWF-complex-containing~~ protein solution is selected from the group consisting of a plasma, a plasma fraction, a cryoprecipitate, a cell-free supernatant of a recombinant cell culture, an

extract of a recombinant cell culture, and a protein fraction enriched in factor VIII/vWF-complex.

26-37. (withdrawn)

38. (previously added) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of ≥300 mM.

39. (previously added) A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said eluting step comprises eluting said factor VIII/vWF-complex containing high-molecular weight vWF multimers at a salt concentration of ≥350 mM.